

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claim 6 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended in part so that the preamble recites a "system" including an accounting center and a terminal device.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the limitation "for transmitting the accounting point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center. . ." be given its proper patentable weight requiring the Examiner to show the prior art having such structural features.

Claim 6 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the

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rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Peterson '020.

A feature of the present invention is that the terminal device transmits accounting point information stored in a first memory to the accounting center, wherein the accounting center performs an accounting process based on the accounting point information transmitted from the terminal device. See Fig. 9 and pages 39-40 of the present application, for example.

Looking at Peterson '020 we see that there is no transmission of the accounting point information from the terminal device to the accounting center and no accounting process performed in the accounting center based on the accounting point information transmitted from the terminal device. The system of Peterson '020 requires the user to contact the accounting center to purchase a smart card or to set up an account at the accounting center. See col. 7, lines 30-34 and col. 9, lines 51-53 of Peterson '020, for example.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Peterson '020.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the

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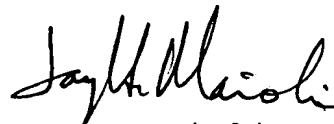
rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Peterson '020 in view of Goldman.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Peterson '020 has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Goldman that somehow could be combined with Peterson '020 and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is patentably distinct over Peterson '020 in view of Goldman.

The prior art made of record but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claim 6, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Three Times Amended) [A] An accounting system including an accounting center and a terminal device for communicating with [an] the accounting center, comprising:

a first memory for storing accounting point information;
a second memory for storing information received from an external source external to the terminal device;

a controller for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory and for updating attributes of the received information when the received information is stored in the second memory,

wherein when the received information is stored into the second memory the controller reduces the accounting point information stored in the first memory and updates the attributes of the received information from an unavailable state to an available state; and

a second controller for transmitting the accounting point

information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and for setting the accounting point information to an initial value based on an accounting processing status, received by the terminal device from the accounting center, corresponding to the accounting point information, wherein the accounting center performs an accounting process based on the accounting point information transmitted from the terminal device.

--4. (Three Times Amended) The [terminal device] accounting system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the controller performs control so that the attributes of the received information are held in the unavailable state to a user.

--5. (Three Times Amended) The [terminal device] accounting system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the second controller transmits the accounting

point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and sets the accounting point information stored in the first memory at the initial value based on the status of accounting processing corresponding to the accounting point information.

--7. (Three Times Amended) The [terminal device] accounting system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third controller for making a request for purchasing the accounting point information to the accounting center and updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory based on the accounting processing status corresponding to the accounting point information received from the accounting center.--